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**Project Title:** Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform (ECO.Georgia)

**Project/Activity Number:** 20.2275.4-002.00/C1A1

20.2275.4-001.00/C1A2

20.2275.4-007.00/C3A3

**Title of the assignment:** Didactic consultant for KMTP

## 1. Brief information on the project

Climate change impacts and the demand for fuelwood from rural population put significant pressure on Georgia's forests: up to 90% of rural households (1.43 million people) rely on fuelwood for their energy needs. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that households use obsolete technologies, such as traditional stoves with a lifetime of two years and an efficiency of 35% or less. Fuelwood demand exceeds sustainable harvesting levels, considering reduced productivity of many forests in the country because of extensive forest degradation. This forest degradation leads to a loss of carbon absorption capacity which is projected to decrease by five times between 1990 and 2030.

In order to address this negative development, the project "Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform - ECO.Georgia" supports the Government of Georgia to implement its transformational forest sector reform agenda to put the entire nation's forests under the framework for sustainable forest management (SFM). It will do so by supporting the establishment of a nation-wide SFM system (Component 1) and in parallel promoting market development for energy efficient appliances and alternative fuels (Component 2) to address the main driver of forest degradation. The project will safeguard the reform implementation by diversifying livelihood opportunities and strengthening local self-governance in forest adjoining rural communities (Component 3).

The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) with GIZ being the project's accredited entity. The German contribution is part of the wider German support in the priority area "Environmental policy, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the South Caucasus", which aims at the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and climate protection, particularly for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly, both the share of renewables in the energy composition as well as the energy efficiency levels will increase.

Especially rural households using firewood as their source of heating energy will benefit from improved air quality and reduced fuelwood demand through eased access to energy efficient stoves. Forest-related small and medium-sized enterprises and their employees will receive support to improve economic efficiency and environmental sustainability of their business activities. Additionally, staff members of relevant public institutions (National Forestry Agency NFA, Department of Environmental Supervision DES, Environmental Information and Education Center EIEC, Rural Development Agency RDA, municipalities) will receive direct support through human capacity development measures and grant finance.

ECO.Georgia primarily contributes to achieving the SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems) of the 2030 Agenda of the UN, but also to

achieving SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

The duration of ECO.Georgia is from April 2021 until March 2029.

## 2. Description of the Assignment

### 2.1. Context

Georgia's forest sector reform started in 2012/13 with the launch of the National Forest Program (NFP) in September 2013. The important following steps were the elaboration and adoption by the Georgian Parliament of the National Forest Concept in December 2013 and the preparation and approval of the (new) Forest Code of Georgia in May 2020 followed by a number of respective sublegal acts.<sup>1</sup> Policy-level Criteria and Indicators for Ecosystem-based Sustainable Forest Management were adopted in May 2022.<sup>2</sup> The purpose of developing the policy and management level criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management was to improve the quality of forest management in Georgia, and to ensure the use of forest resources that maintains forest biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality, and relevant ecological, economic, and social functions at local, national, and global levels, always in a way that it does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

GIZ has been supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MoEPA) with its main implementing partners, Biodiversity and Forestry Department (BFD), National Forestry Agency (NFA), Department of Environmental Supervision, Rural Development Agency (RDA), as well as Environmental Information and Education Center (EIEC) and TVET colleges since 2017 in different directions dealing with the forest sector reform, with strong focus on introduction of close-to-nature Sustainable Forest Management into forestry practice.

The project is supporting a so-called "Forest Work Specialist" course, which is being taught in seven vocational colleges country wide. At the same time, short cycle courses on forest value chains are in the process of development, which will be also taught in TVET colleges.

From 2024 onwards, capacity development of the NFA will be implemented within a large international backstopping contract on different aspects of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). One of the four international experts (there is also a pool of local experts teaming up with and supporting the international experts) will be and educational expert who will lead the overall project coordination of training approaches and the development of training materials within this assignment.

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<sup>1</sup> Among other resolutions: decrees by the Government of Georgia in 2021 on "Forest Use Rules", on "Rules of Forest Protection, Restoration and Maintenance" and on "Rule of Record Keeping System, Categorization and Monitoring of the Forest of Georgia".

<sup>2</sup> Criteria and indicators for the management level (i.e. in the forest) have been drafted and are expected to be adopted through a decree/order of the head of the National Forestry Agency in late 2022/beginning of 2023.

## **Knowledge Management and Training Platform (KMTP)**

The online e-learning Knowledge Management and Training Platform (KMTP) for the forest sector is currently being developed by Environmental Information and Education Center (EIEC) and by MoEPA's IT department in close cooperation with NFA and DES, funded by ECO.Georgia. It is envisaged that any future training in the forest sector shall make best use of the platform, which will be accessible also to private service providers and NGOs. The system will include e-learning elements, videos, knowledge storage, and ultimately strengthen the management and dissemination of information. The KMTP will ensure that people engaged in forestry sector have adequate knowledge and skills to effectively implement the actions considered under SFM under the new forest code through improved knowledge management and dissemination, and the institutionalization of key sector trainings. While each module will have a lead institution who provides insight on training content and oversees module development, EIEC is expected to oversee the broader functioning of the platform providing key coordination and logistical support.

The training course will consist of 2 modules:

- Basic module
- Professional module

For the basic module, relatively simple, introductory topics will be selected.

For the professional module - knowledge deepening, more technical issues.

After completing all the required modules and quizzes/tests, there will be final exam/test and some courses issue certificates. Not all courses give certificates it depends on the course (not compulsory).

In many cases, the actual training will comprise of a theoretical part (via KMTP) and a practical part (e.g. in the forest).

A demo version of KMTP already is developed, and the full operation is scheduled for the beginning of 2024.

### **2.2. Objective(s) of the assignment and work packages/tasks**

The main objective of the assignment is to ensure that training modules are suitable for the KMTP e-learning platform considering didactic, pedagogic and educational approaches. Main focus is the improvement of the training modules for better answering e-learning demands as well as the adoption of all training modules in line with the Knowledge Management and Training Platform (KMTP) format and the development of recommendations for all modules.

The consultant should review the modules and make sure that they are in line with the methodologies needed for the KMTP.

The consultant shall also improve the training modules based on international best practices, didactic attractiveness (including videos and graphical elements – to be developed by other experts/designers) and coordinate intensively with involved executive bodies (e.g., BFD, EIEC, NFA, DES, and GIZ) as well as with other experts involved (see above SFM Tender) to align the teaching content.

In particular, the consultant shall fulfil the following tasks:

### **Working Package 1**

- Develop a concept (approach) how to create/convert existing/new training modules suitable for the electronic format of KMTP in a didactical and attractive manner.
- Recommend didactical/pedagogic and attractive formats for e-learning (e.g., structure, tests, videos, scripts, graphics, ppt etc.).

### **Working Package 2**

- Review up to 16 existing training modules (10 of DES, 6 of NFA) and respective learning materials, and provide detailed and concrete recommendations for improving the didactics and attractiveness of the modules and learning material (e.g. regarding story board, use of media, sequence, tutorial elements, etc.).
- Provide concrete improvements for existing training modules in terms of text, attractive formats and quiz questions/tests in close collaboration with DES and NFA.

### **Working Package 3**

- Provide didactical advice and detailed recommendations during the development of up to 13 new training modules (including text, videos, graphics, sufficient and appealing formats, quiz questions) for preparing them in a didactical and attractive manner in line with the electronic format of KMTP.

Please note that videos and graphics will be developed by other specialists/companies, while text and quiz questions shall be co-developed by the didactic expert in close collaboration with the respective institutions (mainly NFA and DES, but also – in the case of short-cycle trainings – with TVET colleges).

## **2.3. Outputs/deliverables**

Expected outputs are:

- Output 1: Concept on general pedagogic/didactical approach for KMTP (C1A1, C1A2, C3A3)
- Output 2: Detailed recommendations for 3 new short cycle modules (C3A3)
- Output 3: Review of up to 10 existing DES modules, written recommendations/improvements per modules (C1A2)
- Output 4: Review of up to 6 existing NFA modules, written recommendations/improvements per modules (C1A1)
- Output 5: Detailed recommendations for up to 7 new DES modules (C1A2)
- Output 6: Detailed recommendations for up to 6 new NFA modules (C1A1)
- Output 7: Approach for didactical KMTP learning materials (built on Output 1) (C1A1, & C1A2)

Up to 20 flexible working days in case of additional needs (complex modules, meetings, etc) conditional to prior approval.

## 2.4. Schedule and timeframe

	Deadline upon contract conclusion	Number of experts	Scheduled number of days per expert	Comment
• Output 1/Deliverable 1	3 months	1	10	<i>On the Output 1 depends the continuation of the contract. Is quality of output 1 not satisfactory, the assignment will end right there and then.</i>
• Output 2/Deliverable 2	6 months	1	9	
• Output 3/Deliverable 3	6 months	1	30	
• Output 4/Deliverable 4	9 months	1	18	
• Output 5/Deliverable 5	15 months	1	21	
• Output 6/Deliverable 6	22 months	1	18	
• Output 7/Deliverable	24 months	1	5	
Flexible working days			20	<i>To be utilised upon approval from the project side in case increased number of working days required than scheduled for delivering individual outputs</i>
Other costs		Number of experts	Amount per experts	
Travel cost/workshop participation if needed (against invoice)		1	2,000. - GEL	Requires prior approval before any travels

## 3. Concept

In the tender, the tenderer is required to submit a technical proposal showing how the objectives defined in Chapter 2 are to be achieved.

The technical proposal will be evaluated in accordance with the assessment grid which consists of followings:

### (2.1) Concept

- a. interpretation of the objective /assignment (2.1)
- b. strategy for the implementation (2.1)
- c. approach to steering the measures with the project partners (2.1)
- d. a work plan in a visual form (2.1)

## 4. Expert profile

The tenderer should be suited to filling the position described, on the basis of their CV, the range of tasks involved and the required qualifications.

The CV of the consultant meeting the requirements below must be submitted using the format specified in the terms and conditions for application. The CVs shall not exceed 4 pages each. They must clearly show the position and job the proposed person held in the reference project and for how long.

CV should contain:

(5.1.1) General qualification:

Education: Master's degree in education or relevant field

Training: trainings in relevant field

(5.1.2) Specific qualification:

Professional experience:

- 5 years' professional experience in trainings, education in didactic/pedagogic approaches
- 2 years' experience in environmental education
- 1 year experience in E-learning approaches

(5.1.3) Linguistic skills: Georgian native, business fluency in English (B2 CERF)

## 5. Timing and duration

From latest **1<sup>st</sup> December 2023** to **30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

## 6. Place of assignment

Tbilisi, Georgia.

## 7. Reporting

- Reports are to be prepared according to the GIZ template to be provided by the project.
- All documents shall be delivered electronically (text files) in Georgian.
- The consultant is expected to coordinate very closely with NFA, DES, EIEC, TVET colleges, advisors of GIZ.
- The consultant shall keep a time sheet (8 hours = 1 working day) with entry of inputs per output.

## 8. Other provisions

The attached price schedule is required to be used for the preparation of the financial offer.